relating to restructuring of self and wage employment programmes to make the implementation more effective; a meeting of State Secretaries dealing with drinking water in May, 1998 to review the status and the quality of implementation of rural water supply programmes; a workshop organised in May, 1998 on watershed approach for managing degraded lands, a meeting of State Housing Ministers convened in June, 1998 to discuss strategies to tackle housing shortage in rural and urban areas, an expert consultation on decentralised rural development was held on 18th June, 1998 at NIRD, Hyderabad; increase in the Budget of the Ministry from Rs. 9095 crores in 1997-98 to Rs. 9912 crores during 1998-99 (which comprises substantial increase under accelerated rural water supply from Rs. 1302 crores to Rs. 1628 crores, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) Rs. 567 crores to Rs. 728 crores and under IAY from Rs. 1190 crores to Rs. 1600 crores); delegation of powers to State Governments to plan and implement all rural water supply projects; increasing the number of beneficiaries under Nation Old Age Pension (NOAP) programme in KBK districts of Orissa by additional 50,000 cases; release of central assistance under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) in one installment in Jammu & Kashmir due to limited working season, grant of extension of old guidelines under draught prone areas programme (DPAP) for one more year for DODA and Udhampur districts etc.

**Strengthening of DRDA**

4704. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently several steps have been initiated to improve the quality in planning and implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the specific measures initiated for strengthening the District Rural Development Agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYEMENT (SHRI BABA GOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of steps have been initiated to improve the quality in planning and implementation of rural development and poverty alleviation programmes such as (a) strengthening of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) which are implementing agencies for these programmes, (b) greater participation of Gram Sabhas to ensure transparency and objectivity in the selection procedure and implementation of the programmes, (c) constitution of Monitoring and Vigilance Committees at the State, district and block levels involving public representatives such as MLAs and MPs, NGOs etc. to supervise, exercise vigilance and monitor the implementation of all programmes implemented by this Ministry.

(c) The specific measures for strengthening the District Rural Development Agencies include strengthening of technical, engineering and accounting Wings at the DRDAs, formation of a District Level Technical Group for preparing of viable projects for DRDAs and strengthening of Management Information System of DRDAs.

**Project of CAPART**

4705. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the CAPART in various projects in the last financial year through various N.G.O's;

(b) the State-wise break up with details of N.G.O's;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are bogus organisations which are getting the benefits; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government against them?